

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 MMS-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ACDA-10 /103 W

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O R 050930Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 103

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 3128

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP PFOR US ASEAN, XO

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S PRESS STATEMENTS

REF: A) STATE 128629 (NOTAL)

B) JAKARTA 6651 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM A TRANSCRIPT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S REMARKS TO GROUP OF MALAYSIAN EDITORS AND CORRESPONDENTS MAY 31 REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA AND INDIAN OCEAN (PER DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, REF A):

BEGIN QUOTE: QUESTION: DO YOU SEE ANY PROBLEM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN NEUTRALITY PROPOSAL? ANSWER: WELL, YOU KNOW WE ARE GOING AHEAD WITH DIEGO GARCIA. WE ARE GOING TO BE VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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MODEST, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY GREAT ELABORATE AFFAIR.

DIEGO GARCIA IS GOING TO HAVE A VERY MODEST BIT OF CONSTRUCTION. IT'S SOME KIND OF AIR FACILITY AND A MODEST NAVAL FACILITY WHICH IS BASICALLY DESIGNED TO SERVE THE PURPOSE OF FLEET RECONNAISSANCE IN THE AREA. THERE IS, AS YOU KNOW, SOME OBJECTION TO THIS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY BUT I THINK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY WILL PREVAIL. WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH IT. YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE INDIAN OCEAN TO THE RUSSIAN FLEET TO FLIT BACK AND FORTH AS IT WISHES. A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO RECALL, OR WISH TO RECALL, THAT THERE ARE ALREADY MAJOR RUSSIAN BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT. YOU KNOW, IN OUR SYSTEM, EVERYTHING HANGS OUT, AS WE SAID. WE SEE IT, WE TELL YOU ABOUT IT, WE HAVE BUDGETS, WE HAVE HEARINGS, WE TESTIFY, WE TELL EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO BE THERE. YOU CAN GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF IN MOST PLACES.

QUESTION: DURING WORLD WAR II, THE FACT THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS INSECURE PRACTICALLY INVENTED SYNTHETIC RUBBER. IT WAS KNOWN BEFORE, BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE EFFECT UNTIL NO ONE COULD GET NATURAL RUBBER FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD. ANSWER: WE INTEND TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE ROLE. WE DON'T HAVE ANY AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. BUT WE HAVE VERY REAL INTERESTS IN TERMS OF LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND WE'RE GOING TO EXERCISE OUR INTERESTS. END QUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S COMMENTS ON ASEAN REQUESTED REF B:

BEGIN QUOTE: QUESTION: YOU SAID THAT YOUR MISSION, OR YOUR TRIP, WAS TO FIND OUT THE MOOD AND THE CONCERNS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT SO FAR? ANSWER: . . . I DON'T SENSE ANY DESPAIR ON ANYBODY'S PART. I THINK THAT THERE'S A VERY REAL, AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I'VE LEARNED, THAT THERE IS A VERY REAL MOVE IN THE COUNTRIES THAT I'VE BEEN VISITING TOWARD ASSOCIATION. PARTICULARLY THE ASEAN ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED, AS IS TRUE OF SUCH ASSOCIATIONS THAT WHEN UNCERTAINTY ARISES THERE'S A CHARACTERISTIC OF STRENGTHENING THE DESIRE TO BROADEN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS, FIRM UP YOUR ASSOCIATIONS OR

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AT LEAST SHARE YOUR CONCERNS, AND I THINK THAT HAS BEEN A DEMONSTRABLE RECENT EVENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE AND THE PROMISE OF FURTHER COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ASEAN GROUP IS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I'VE BEEN QUITE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT AND LISTENING TO PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON IS THIS QUESTION OF REGIONALISM AND REGIONAL COOPERATION. I THINK IT HAS COME QUITE A WAYS.

IN SOME WAYS, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE FACT IT STARTED
BACK AWAYS, ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY,
AND ALREADY SOME DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN DEVELOPED,
MAKING THE ORGANIZATION, THE INSTITUTION A MORE USEFUL ONE
IN A SITUATION WHERE THE UNCERTAINTIES HAVE GROWN AND
WHERE THE NECESSITY FOR COORDINATION IS PROBABLY MORE READILY
RECOGNIZED. . . .

QUESTION: MR. HABIB, YOU YOURSELF SAID THAT (YOU ARE)
WAITING FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE AND IN FACT, AS A RESULT
OF YOUR VISIT, U.S. POLICY HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY SOME
FOREIGN MINISTRY AS A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE IN TERMS OF
NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REGION. IN LIGHT OF THE
ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE (AND)
IN WHICH NO MAJOR CONCLUSIVE THINGS EMERGED, BUT A NUMBER
OF STANDS WERE TAKEN, LIKE AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THE INDOCHINESE
COUNTRIES THAT ASEAN DOES NOT WANT TO GANG UP AGAINST
THEM, THAT THEY WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. NOW, MR.
ADAM MALIK, THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MADE A CALL
THAT THE MAJOR POWERS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD
FOREGO MILITARY ROLES IN THE REGION, SO THEREBY
PREVENTING A REPETITION OF THE SORT OF EVENTS THAT HAVE
OCCURRED IN THE PAST. ANSWER: WELL, WE'LL WAIT AND SEE
HOW THINGS DEVELOP WITH RESPECT TO THESE KINDS OF BROAD
POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT PEOPLE MAKE. BUT I DON'T
KNOW OF ANYBODY WHO CAN EXPECT THAT ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS
CAN BE TAKEN EXCLUSIVELY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE SECURITY
ENVIRONMENT. . . . NOW STRENGTH CAN
BE IN DIFFERENT WAYS. YOU CAN HAVE STRENGTH ECONOMICALLY,
YOU CAN HAVE STRENGTH MILITARILY, YOU CAN HAVE STRENGTH
POLITICALLY INTERMS OF UNITY AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS,

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 MMS-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

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O R 050930Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 104
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

YOU CAN HAVE STRENGTH DIPLOMATICALLY, YOU CAN HAVE STRENGTH MORALLY IN WHICH YOU CAN CALL UPON THE PEOPLE, BUT ALTOGETHER I THINK THE FORMULA THAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED GENERALLY INCLUDES AT LEAST SOME COMPONENT OF MILITARY POWER AND I SUSPECT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ELEMENT FOR SOME TIME, WITHOUT IN ANY WAY DETRACTING FROM THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE IT REPLACED BY SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE MILITARY POWER. I DON'T KNOW JUST IN WHAT DIRECTION SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE WILL MOVE; PROPOSALS FOR NEUTRAL ZONES, THINGS LIKE THAT. NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN MADE VERY SPECIFICALLY. YOU DON'T KNOW QUITE CLEARLY WHAT PEOPLE SAY. PEOPLE SAY NO BASES IN THE AREA. AND WHEN YOU SAY, NONE AT ALL? WELL, MAYBE SOME BUT NOT ALL (OR) WELL, THAT THE NATURE OF THE BASE HAS TO CHANGE OR THE MANNER IN WHICH IT IS USED HAS TO BE CHANGED OR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT CAN BE USED. OR YOU MEAN THAT CERTAIN WARSHIPS CAN'T TRAVERSE THERE? WEL, NO, INNOCENT PASSAGE IS ALLOWED. WELL, WHAT IS INNOCENT PASSAGE? YOU KNOW THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED IN THIS REGARD. BUT PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING FOR THESE NEW FORMULATIONS. WE DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THESE IN PRINCIPLE. . . . THE UNITED STATES HAS NO RIGIDITY IN (ITS) APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND I THINK WE PROVED THAT WITH THE PURSUIT OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE, RAPPROCHEMENT THAT WE HAVE FOLLOWED FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WAS A MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS AMERICAN POLICIES.

QUESTION: SIR, IN OTHER WORLDS, YOU MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES COULDN'T MAKE A POSITIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH ANY DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NEUTRAL ZONE CONCEPT IF IT IS SPECIFIC? ANSWER: WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN TO THE STAGE OF ANSWERING A QUESTION LIKE THAT. THE WHOLE QUESTION IS STILL SO UNFORMED AND NEBULOUS THAT I WOULD SAY THAT I

WOULD RATHER NOT EXPRESS ANY VIEWS ABOUT IT AT THIS TIME
FOR I THINK THAT IT WOULD MISLEAD AND I DON'T WANT TO
MISLEAD ANYBODY. LET'S SEE WHAT PEOPLE HAVE AND
WE'LL CONSIDER WHAT ANYBODY HAS TO SAY, BUT I WON'T
GO SO FAR AS TO WHAT YOU'VE SAID. END QUOTE.

3. COPIES OF FULL TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WILL
BE SENT DEPT/EA AND ASEAN CAPITALS.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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